
NOW WHY DON'T YOU HAVE THE REST OF YOUR X-KIDDIES BACK OFF BEFORE ONE OF THEM GETS CUT?
YER PLAYIN' WITH FIRE, RUNT!
YOU EVEN BREATHE TOO HARD AND WE'RE GONNA BE ALL OVER YOU.
BEEN WAITIN' A LONG TIME TO TAKE A PIECE OUT OF YER HIDE!
SABRETOOTH!
THIS IS BETWEEN LOGAN AND ME. NO ONE HERE WANTS TO FIGHT.
OH, THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, BUB! I'M ITCHING FOR ONE.
BEEN THAT WAY SINCE THE DAY YOU HAD US ABANDON JEAN TO APOCALYPSE'S CAMPS.
BUT I GOT HER OUT! I DID!
I DIDN'T NEED YOU... DIDN'T NEED ANY OF YOU!
I LOST MY HAND, BUT I'D HAVE GIVEN UP MUCH MORE THAN THAT FOR HER.



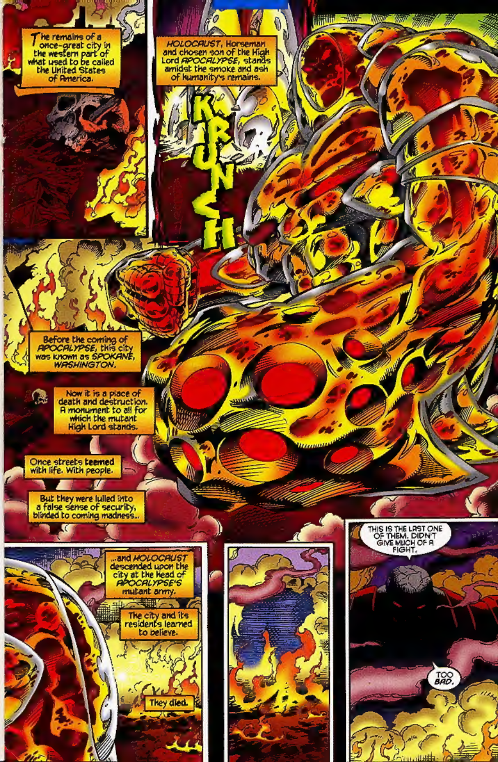
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LOGAN, DON'T *DO* THIS. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY.
LET'S JUST *LEAVE*.
SURE, KID. ANYTHING YOU SAY. TAKE US *AWAY* FROM THIS PLACE... IT AIN'T HOME *NO MORE*.
IF IT EVER *WAS*.

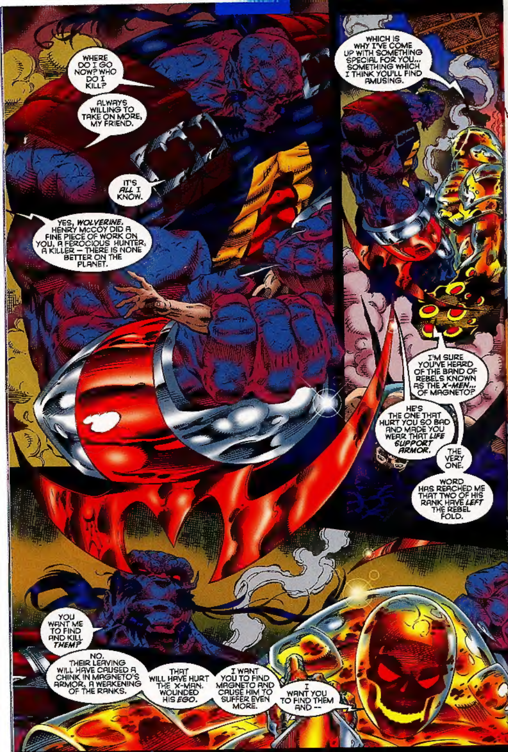


WE'RE DONE WITH YOUR FIGHT, MAGNETO... DONE WITH YOUR DREAMS.
FROM NOW ON I'LL TAKE CARE O' ME AND JEAN... WITH NO HELP FROM YOU!
MAGNETO can only watch as JEAN GREY carries LOGAN away using her telekinetic powers.
He wants to reach out to them... to stop them... to explain... to make them somehow understand...
...instead
...he can only watch.
And a part of him leaves with them.
MAGNETO? IS THERE ANYTHING AH CAN DO?
NO, ROGUE... NOTHING.
FOR NOW I NEED TO BE LEFT ALONE.
COME, CHERE.
BUT, GAMBIT... MAGNETO NEEDS...
HE NEED TO BE HAVIN' SOME TIME TO HIMSELF... AND SO DO WE.


FATHER, I'LL GO AFTER THEM. PERHAPS I CAN TALK TO JEAN.
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE *SENSIBLE* ONE IN THAT PAIR.
NO, PIETRO. IT'S *OVER.* THEY'VE MADE THEIR DECISION.
NOW PLEASE LEAD THE TEAM THROUGH A BATTLE EXERCISE.
NONE OF US CAN AFFORD TO DWELL ON THIS INCIDENT FOR TOO LONG.
I WILL JOIN YOU SHORTLY.
MAGNETO!
WHA -- ? JEAN'S TELEPATHIC THOUGHTS?
I UNDERSTAND *WHY* YOU *DID WHAT* YOU DID.
BUT RIGHT NOW, *LOGAN* NEEDS ME *MORE* THAN THE TEAM DOES.
FORGIVE YOURSELF... *I* HAVE.



The remains of a once-great city in the western part of what used to be called the United States of America.
HOLOCAUST, Horseman and chosen son of the High Lord APOCALYPSE, stands amidst the smoke and ash of humanity's remains.
KRUNCH
Before the coming of APOCALYPSE, this city was known as SPOKANE, WASHINGTON.
Now it is a place of death and destruction. A monument to all for which the mutant High Lord stands.
Once streets teemed with life. With people.
But they were lulled into a false sense of security, blinded to coming madness...
...and HOLOCAUST descended upon the city at the head of APOCALYPSE'S mutant army.
The city and its residents learned to believe.
They died.
THIS IS THE LAST ONE OF THEM. DIDN'T GIVE MUCH OF A FIGHT.
TOO BAD.

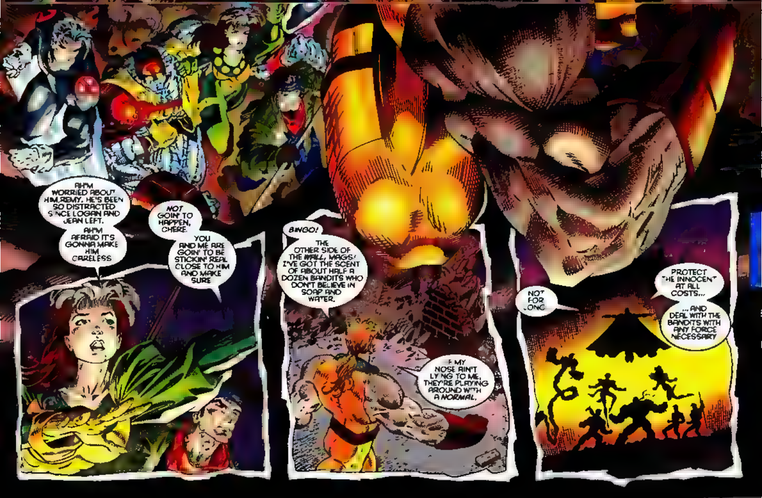

WHERE DO I GO NOW? WHO DO I KILL?
ALWAYS WILLING TO TAKE ON MORE, MY FRIEND.
IT'S *ALL* I KNOW.
YES, *WOLVERINE*. HENRY MCCOY DID A FINE PIECE OF WORK ON YOU, A FEROCIOUS HUNTER, A KILLER -- THERE IS NONE BETTER ON THE PLANET.
WHICH IS WHY I'VE COME UP WITH SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOU... SOMETHING WHICH I THINK YOU'LL FIND AMUSING.
I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD OF THE BAND OF REBELS KNOWN AS THE *X-MEN*... OF MAGNETO?
HE'S THE ONE THAT HURT YOU SO BAD AND MADE YOU WEAR THAT *LIFE SUPPORT ARMOR*.
THE VERY ONE.
WORD HAS REACHED ME THAT TWO OF HIS RANK HAVE *LEFT* THE REBEL FOLD.
YOU WANT ME TO FIND AND KILL *THEM*?
NO. THEIR LEAVING WILL HAVE CAUSED A CHINK IN MAGNETO'S ARMOR, A WEAKENING OF THE RANKS.
THAT WILL HAVE HURT THE X-MAN. WOUNDED HIS *EGO*.
I WANT YOU TO FIND MAGNETO AND CAUSE HIM TO SUFFER EVEN MORE.
I WANT YOU TO FIND THEM AND --

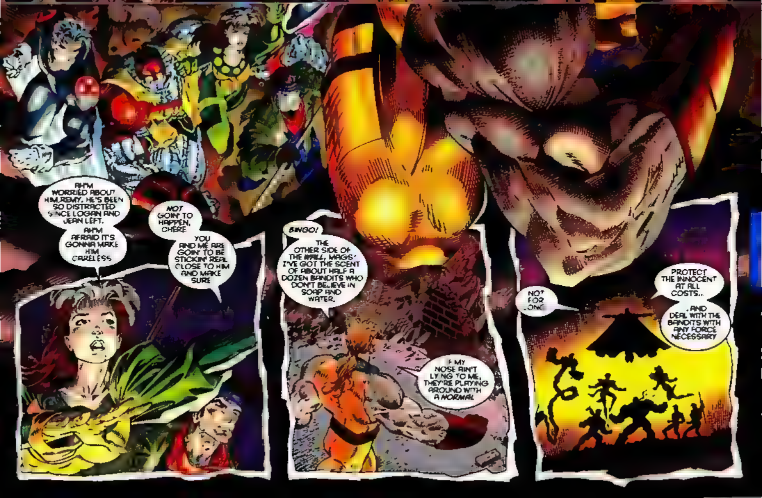

MURDERING MUTANT SCUM! YOU KILLED MY WIFE... MY CHILDREN... MY FRIENDS...
KRAK'!
AND NOW WE HAVE KILLED YOU.
SORRY. I GUESS I MISSED ONE.
NOW WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO WHEN I FIND MAGNETO?
FIND HIM AND KILL THE CLOSEST TO HIM WHILE HE LOOKS ON.
HE WASN'T THERE WHEN I KILLED HIS DAUGHTER,* BUT HE HAS ANOTHER CHILD -- THE BOY, QUICKSILVER.
I WANT MAGNETO TO BE BURDENED WITH THE DEATH OF BOTH HIS CHILDREN, AS I AM BURDENED WITH THIS ARMOR.
* X-MEN CHRONICLES #1 -- Kelly.
THEN, KNOWING HE IS SUFFERING... I WILL KILL HIM.


Days later, in the ruined city of DENVER, COLORADO...
THIS IS THE AREA IN WHICH THE BANDIT HORDE WAS LAST SIGHTED.
QUICKSILVER, YOU AND SABRETOOTH HAVE THE POINT.
AND SABRETOOTH, THIS TIME WHEN YOU FIND THE BANDITS WAIT UNTIL THE REST OF US ARRIVE BEFORE DEALING WITH THEM.
YOU KNOW, MAGS, SOMETIMES YOU CAN BE A REAL WET BLANKET.
I KNOW.
ICE-MAN, STORM, THE THREE OF US WILL KEEP CLOSE TO THE TERRAIN. I DON'T WANT TO ANNOUNCE OUR ARRIVAL PREMATURELY.
GAMBIT, YOU AND ROGUE WATCH THE SURROUNDING BUILDINGS FOR ANY SIGN OF HOSTILE ACTIVITY.
COLOSSUS, KEEP AN EYE ON ALL OUR BACKS.



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COLOSSUS, KEEP AN EYE ON ALL OUR BACKS.


AH'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM, REMY. HE'S BEEN SO DISTRACTED SINCE LOGAN AND JEAN LEFT.
AH'M AFRAID IT'S GONNA MAKE HIM CARELESS
NOT GOIN' TO HAPPEN, CHERE.
YOU AND ME ARE GOIN' TO BE STICKIN' REAL CLOSE TO HIM AND MAKE SURE
BINGO!
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL, MAGS! I'VE GOT THE SCENT OF ABOUT HALF A DOZEN BANDITS WHO DON'T BELIEVE IN SOAP AND WATER.
IF MY NOSE AIN'T LYING TO ME, THEY'RE PLAYING AROUND WITH A NORMAL.
NOT FOR LONG
PROTECT THE INNOCENT AT ALL COSTS...
...AND DEAL WITH THE BANDITS WITH ANY FORCE NECESSARY


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Instantly STORM is carried skyward on a gale force wind summoned forth with her mutant powers.
LEAVE IT TO STORMY TO MAKE THE WEATHER EVEN GLOOMIER.
ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GOING TO CATCH A COLD FROM BEING AROUND HER.
MAYBE YOU COULD TALK TO HER ABOUT THIS, PIETRO.
I DON'T THINK SO, BOBBY. WE'VE GOT AN AGREEMENT.
SHE DOESN'T TELL ME HOW TO RUN AND I DON'T TELL HER HOW TO CONTROL THE WEATHER. IT'S MADE FOR A PRETTY HAPPY RELATIONSHIP SO FAR.
BESIDES, IF SHE HEARS YOU CALLING HER "STORMY", YOU'LL HAVE MORE TO WORRY ABOUT THAN A LITTLE RAIN.
YEAH, YEAH. I HEAR YOU. MAYBE YOU CAN HELP HER FIND A SENSE OF HUMOR, BUDDY.
SHE'S GOT TO HAVE ONE IF SHE'S EVEN SLIGHTLY INTERESTED IN YOU!
COLOSSUS, YOU AND I CAN MOVE AHEAD TOGETHER IF YOU ARE READY.
BRING ME TO THE BANDITS, TOVARITSCH, AND I WILL SHOW YOU HOW READY I AM!
COME ON, GAMBIT, WE'VE GOT TO MAGNETO.
LET'S NOT OVERDO THE WORRYIN' ABOUT HIM, CHERE.
HE'S BEEN AT THIS A LOT LONGER THAN ANY OF US. . .
...HAS SAVED OUR HIDES MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT
I T'INK HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF


YOUR BRATS ARE LOOKIN' MIGHTY WELL FED THERE... CONSIDERING THE TIMES WE LIVE IN.
WE GRACIOUSLY GIVE YOU PROTECTION FROM THE REAL BAD ONES... THE ONES THAT WOULD RATHER EAT YOU THAN THE FEW SCRAPS OF FOOD YOU THROW TO US AS PAYMENT!
AND NOW YOU GO HOLDIN' OUT ON US?
MAYBE I'VE GOT TO MARK UP ONE OF THE GIRLS SO YOU REMEMBER TO GIVE US OUR SHARE... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
PLEASE... THEY'RE ONLY CHILDREN! DON'T HURT THEM!
THE WORLD IS A HARSH PLACE... AND GETTING HARSHER EVERY DAY.
WE ALL DO WHAT WE GOT TO DO TO SURVIVE.
WHAA -- ?
THE BLADE'S JUST HANGING THERE!
SEEMS LIKE WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE SOME COMPANY OF THE MUTANT PERSUASION --
SHRAKOOOM
THE X-MEN!
WE DON'T NEED THIS!



TO APOCALYPSE'S PEOPLE... AND SCORE SOME POINTS!
THIS HUMAN WOULD ACTUALLY CONSPIRE WITH AN ENEMY WHO WOULD SEE HIS ENTIRE RACE EXTERMINATED?
SHOWED UP, THE UNITED STATES BECAME A DOG EAT DOG KINDA PLACE.
AND WHAT WOULD BE... WHAT


ENOUGH!
THIS IS BATTLE, NOT A TRAINING SESSION!
YOU ARE ALL TAKING FAR TOO LONG WITH THIS OPERATION.
WE MUST ACT QUICKLY... DIRECTLY... BRUTALLY.
IF THESE HAD BEEN APOCALYPSE'S INFINITES INSTEAD OF MERE BANDITS...
...WE WOULD HAVE LOST SOME OF OUR OWN NUMBERS ALREADY.
WEAPON-X AND JEAN KNEW THE VALUE OF EXPEDIENCY.
SEE, REMY, HE IS DISTRACTED.
HE CAN'T ACCEPT THAT LOGAN AND JEAN LEFT THE TEAM.
STOP FRETTIN' 'BOUT HIM, CHERE. HE'S A BIG BOY AND JUST NEEDS TO WORK OFF SOME STEAM.
NOW YOU BE KEEPIN' YOUR MIND ON YOUR OWN FIGHT.
'SIDES, I'VE GOT NO INTENTION OF LETTIN' ANY OF THESE GET ANY CLOSER TO HIM.


WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING, CARLO.
LIKE WHAT?
GETTIN' OUR TAILS KICKED... DEAD MAYBE?
WHEN I SIGNED ON WITH THIS GROUP I NEVER PLANNED ON MEETIN' WITH THE X-MEN.
YOU WANT TO DO IT... FEEL FREE. ME... I'M TAKING OFF FOR SOMEWHERE WHERE THEY AIN'T!
NO.
I WANT YOU HUMANS.
YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME TEST THE X-MEN'S METTLE!
JUST A TOUCH AND YOU'RE STRONGER... FASTER... BETTER... THAN THE GENE GARBAGE YOU WERE BORN TO BE!
NOW GO FIGHT! DIE IF NEED BE!
BUT SHOW ME WHAT THE X-MEN ARE MADE OF!
SHOW ME WHY THEY ARE FEARED.



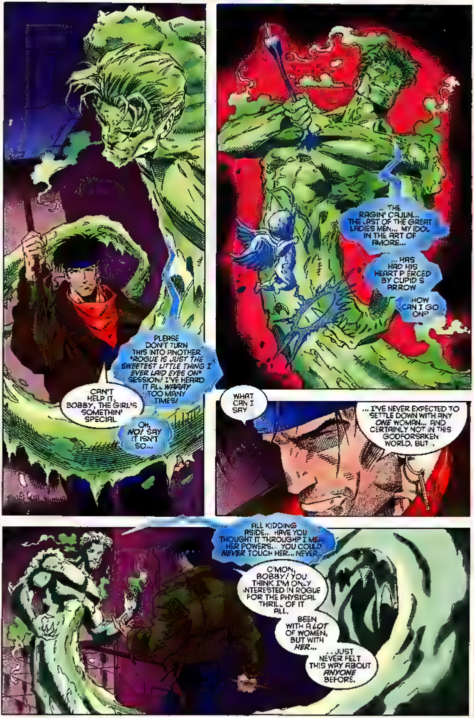
KILL THEM! KILL THEM! KILL THEM!
MAGNETO... KILL HIM... MAKE HIM BLEED!
LOOKIN' LIKE WE GOT A COUPLE OF PERKY LITTLE BACK-STABBERS... HEH, CHERE?
BUT THIS ONE IS GOIN' DOWN AS EASILY AS THE REST.
HOW 'BOUT YOURS, P'TITE?
AH'VE GOT HIM --
DIE, MUTANT!
NO! THE KNIFE!
THE BLADE AIN'T METALLIC... I CAN'T STOP IT!
MAGNETO!


HMMMPH. INTERESTING.
MAGNETO'S DOWN.
STORM! LET'S BE HAVIN' A REAL BIG LIGHT SHOW! CLEAR THE AREA. THIS FIGHT'S OVER.
GAMBIT... I'M ALL RIGHT... DO NOT RETREAT!
SORRY, ERIK, IT'S NOT YOUR CALL.
NO WAY I'M GOIN' TO BE RISKIN' YOUR LIFE!
WE'RE HEADIN' HOME.
YOU CAN CHEW ME OUT LATER.
"KILL THE ONE CLOSEST TO MAGNETO," HOLOCAUST SAID.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S NOT QUICKSILVER, THE SON...
...BUT EITHER ROGUE OR THE ONE CALLED GAMBIT. COME OUT, HUMAN TRASH!
I HAVE WORK TO DO...
...AND YOU ARE GOING TO HELP ME.


The X-MEN'S current residence high atop the mountains of NEW MEXICO...
YOU WERE LUCKY THAT THE KNIFE DID NOT PUNCTURE A LUNG, ERIK.
STILL, THE WOUND IS DEEP. YOU MUST REST.. GIVE YOURSELF TIME --
THE ONE THING I CANNOT GIVE, STORM.
THERE'S TOO MUCH TO BE DONE FOR ME TO CODDLE MYSELF.
GAMBIT SHOULD NEVER HAVE ORDERED TODAY'S RETREAT. THE REST OF YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE LISTENED.
IF IT MEANS RISKIN' YOUR LIFE.. I'LL BE DOING IT AGAIN...
... AND YOU CAN BET THAT THE REST ARE GOIN' TO BE LISTENIN'.
WE NEED YOU.
NO, GAMBIT..
YOU NEED DISCIPLINE!
AND YOU NEED TO START FOLLOWING ORDERS AND NOT LET OUR FRIENDSHIP STAND IN THE WAY OF WHAT WE MUST DO --
FATHER, PLEASE --
TAKE IT EASY. THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT GAMBIT'S CALL WAS THE RIGHT ONE.
WE SAVED THE FAMILY... AND MANAGED TO KEEP YOU AMONG THE LIVING AS WELL.
WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK FOR?
POSSIBLY A WORLD FREE OF APOCALYPSE'S RULE?

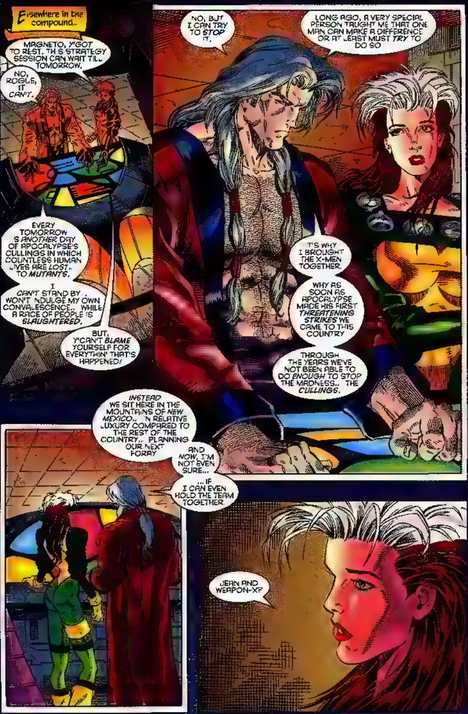

FOR NOW YOU'RE GOIN' TO HAVE TO SETTLE FOR SOME *REST!*
DERE BE *PLENTY* OF TIME TO SAVE THE WORLD WHEN YOU'RE BACK ON YOUR FEET.
DO YOU *REALLY* BELIEVE THAT, REMY?
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT MADE ME *BELIEVE* IN THE FIRST PLACE, PARDNA!
'SIDES... ME AND THIS SOUTHERN BELLE GOT PLENTY OF LIVIN' TO DO TOGETHER.
COME ON, CHERE, LET'S YOU AND ME GO RELAX SOMEWHERE TOGETHER.
NOT NOW, SUGAH!
AH WANT TO STAY BEHIND AND GO OVER NEXT WEEK'S PLANS WITH MAGNETO.
NOT TO WORRY, CAJUN, YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE *ME* TO SNUGGLE UP TO!
LUCKY ME.
CHERE, DON'T YOU GO TAKIN' TOO LONG.
ME AND YOU GOT SOME *REAL IMPORTANT* T'INGS TO TALK ABOUT.


Denver
EVEN AFTER ALL THE POWER I'VE BESTOWED UPON YOU, THE X-MEN ESCAPED!
WHOA! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, MUTIE!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU COME OFF GIVING ORDERS, BUT I'M THE MAN, MUTIE! THE REST DON'T DO ANYTHING UNLESS I SAY SO.
SHRAK
ANY OTHER CHALLENGERS?
NO?
GOOD
NOW WE WILL TAKE THIS FIGHT TO THE X-MEN'S DOOR-STEP!


PLEASE DON'T TURN THIS INTO ANOTHER "ROGUE IS JUST THE SWEETEST LITTLE THING I EVER LAID EYES ON" SESSION! I'VE HEARD IT ALL WAAAY TOO MANY TIMES!
CAN'T HELP IT, BOBBY, THE GIRL'S SOMETHIN' SPECIAL.
OH, NO! SAY IT ISN'T SO...
...THE RAGIN' CAJUN... THE LAST OF THE GREAT LADIES MEN... MY IDOL IN THE ART OF AMORE...
...HAS HAD HIS HEART PIERCED BY CUPID'S ARROW.
HOW CAN I GO ON?
WHAT CAN I SAY.
...I'VE NEVER EXPECTED TO SETTLE DOWN WITH ANY ONE WOMAN... AND CERTAINLY NOT IN THIS GODFORSAKEN WORLD. BUT...
ALL KIDDING ASIDE... HAVE YOU THOUGHT IT THROUGH? I MEAN HER POWERS... YOU COULD NEVER TOUCH HER... NEVER.
C'MON, BOBBY! YOU THINK I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN ROGUE FOR THE PHYSICAL THRILL OF IT ALL.
BEEN WITH A LOT OF WOMEN, BUT WITH HER...
...JUST NEVER FELT THIS WAY ABOUT ANYONE BEFORE.



'SIDES.. MAGNETO AND I'VE BEEN TALKIN' AND HE THINKS MAYBE DERE BE WAYS TO OVERCOME HER POWERS.
HOW CAN I LOSE WITH ONE OF THE SMARTEST MEN I KNOW CONCERN N' MUTANT POWERS WORKIN' ON IT FOR ME?
IF HE THINKS HE CAN HELP ROGUE TO CONTROL HER POWERS, THEN I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT IT
LOOK WHAT HE DID FOR YOU!
AND WHAT ABOUT THE LADY?
DOES ROGUE KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HER?
SHE KNOWS.
SHE'S GOT TO KNOW
DOESN'T SHE?
OH, YEAH. THE GREAT LADIES MAN!
SPLOOSH
CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE BEEN TAKING TIPS FROM YOU ALL THESE YEARS.


Elsewhere in the compound...
MAGNETO, Y'GOT TO REST. TH' STRATEGY SESSION CAN WAIT TILL TOMORROW.
NO, ROGUE, IT CAN'T.
EVERY TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY OF APOCALYPSE'S CULLINGS IN WHICH COUNTLESS HUMAN LIVES ARE LOST... TO MUTANTS.
I CAN'T STAND BY... WON'T INDULGE MY OWN CONVALESCENCE... WHILE A RACE OF PEOPLE IS SLAUGHTERED.
BUT, Y'CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR EVERYTHIN' THAT'S HAPPENED!
NO, BUT I CAN TRY TO STOP IT.
LONG AGO, A VERY SPECIAL PERSON TAUGHT ME THAT ONE MAN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE OR AT LEAST MUST TRY TO DO SO.
IT'S WHY I BROUGHT THE X-MEN TOGETHER.
WHY AS SOON AS APOCALYPSE MADE HIS FIRST THREATENING STRIKES WE CAME TO THIS COUNTRY.
THROUGH THE YEARS WE'VE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO ENOUGH TO STOP THE MADNESS... THE CULLINGS.
INSTEAD WE SIT HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NEW MEXICO... IN RELATIVE LUXURY COMPARED TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY... PLANNING OUR NEXT FORAY.
AND NOW, I'M NOT EVEN SURE...
...IF I CAN EVEN HOLD THE TEAM TOGETHER.
JEAN AND WEAPON-X?



YES.
THEIR LEAVING HAS MADE ME FACE WHAT I'VE TRIED TO DENY FOR TOO MANY YEARS.
THAT, DESPITE MY BEST INTENTIONS, AND MOST LOFTY DREAMS...
... THE X-MEN MAY BE A FAILED CONCEPT. ONE BORN OUT OF MY OWN EGO.
NONSENSE!
TALKIN' LIKE THAT PROVES TO ME, MORE THAN ANYTHIN', THAT Y'NEED TO REST.
AND YOU LISTEN TO ME NOW! AH CAN'T SPEAK FOR EVERYONE ELSE BUT AH CAN PROMISE YOU ONE THING
... AH'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE, FOREVER!
WE DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. AND YOU KNOW IT!
THANK YOU, ROGUE.
THAT MEANS MORE TO ME THAN YOU WILL EVER KNOW.
... YEAH, WELL, YOU GO ON AND GET SOME SLEEP.
AH'VE GOT THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF.


Meanwhile...
Acrid smoke fills the air as the Bandit horde blindly follows Wolverine through the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.
Surging adrenaline pulses through their bodies and inflames the minds of the bandits.
The result is a frenzied strength.
...which will eventually burn so brightly that it will be the cause of their deaths.
But not before Wolverine uses them against the X-MEN.
STOP!
I HAVE THE SCENT
THE TRAITOROUS MUTANT SCUM HAVE BEEN THROUGH THIS WAY
THEY ARE NEAR.


A short time later
EXCUSE ME, QUICKSILVER.
COULD AH TALK TO Y'ALL?
THAT'S IF AH'M NOT INTERRUPTIN' ANYTHIN' IMPORTANT.
SPEED READING, MOSTLY.
WANDA USED TO SAY IT WAS ONE OF MY MORE ANNOYING HABITS.
YOU STILL MISS HER, DON'T YOU, PIETRO?
ALWAYS.


MY SISTER WAS THE BEST FRIEND I EVER HAD.
I CONSTANTLY THINK ABOUT HOW DIFFERENTLY THINGS WOULD HAVE TURNED OUT IF SHE WAS STILL ALIVE.
SHE WAS AN INCREDIBLY CARING PERSON, WITH AN ABILITY TO INSTANTLY MAKE ANYONE FEEL LOVED.
BUT YOU KNOW THAT, ROGUE.
EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T KNOW HER FOR VERY LONG, YOU KNOW.
AND, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW GRATEFUL I AM THAT YOU WERE THERE WITH HER AT THE END.
I KNOW IT WAS PAINFUL FOR YOU... WATCHING HER DIE AT THE HANDS OF NEMESIS... BUT SHE DESERVED TO HAVE SOMEONE THERE WITH HER.
PIETRO?
WHAT DO YOU THINK WANDA WOULD HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT MY BEING YOUR FATHER'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
AH MEAN YOU ARE HIS SON AND ALL.


WHAT DO I THINK?
WE'VE GONE OVER THIS ALREADY, ROGUE.
YOU'RE WORRYING FOR NOTHING.
AS A MATTER OF FACT I'M RELIEVED AT BEING TEMPORARILY FREE OF THE BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY.
I ALSO THINK THAT SOON THE TEAM'S GOING TO HAVE TO EXPAND...
AND THEN WE'LL NEED MORE THAN ONE TEAM LEADER.
WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT I... AND I THINK WANDA WOULD AS WELL... APPROVE OF ALL YOU'RE DOING FOR OUR FATHER.
THANK YOU, PIETRO.
WELL, HERE YOU ARE!
BEEN LOOKIN' ALL OVER FOR YOU, CHERE.
I'LL JUST ASSUME YOU'RE TALKING TO ROGUE AND MOVE TO THE SIDE AND ADMIRE THE SUNSET.
PRETEND I'M NOT EVEN HERE.
ROGUE, I'VE GOT SOMET'IN' ON MY MIND AND IT
I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I'M READY... FOR A COMMITMENT.
YOUR POWERS... WE'LL LEARN TO DEAL WITH 'EM. ALL THAT'S IMPORTANT IS US.
CHERE? I'M FEELIN' KINDA FOOLISH STANDIN' HERE.
ANYT N PLEASE?
AH... AH...
AH'M SORRY, REMY. AH'M SO SORRY.
WHAT JUS' HAPPENED HERE?
I DON'T KNOW, GAMBIT, BUT I THINK YOU AND MY FATHER OUGHT TO HAVE A TALK.
... SOON.
YEAH, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. MAGNETO'LL KNOW WHY SHE'S ACTING SO STRANGE.
I THINK HE'S OUT TRAINING ON THE LOWER FIELDS.


MAGNETO! YOUR WOUNDS -- ?
GIVE ME NO QUARTER, STORM!
I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE YOU ANY... TRAINING EXERCISE OR NOT!
OUR ENEMIES WILL CHOOSE TO ATTACK US WHEN WE ARE OUR MOST VULNERABLE.

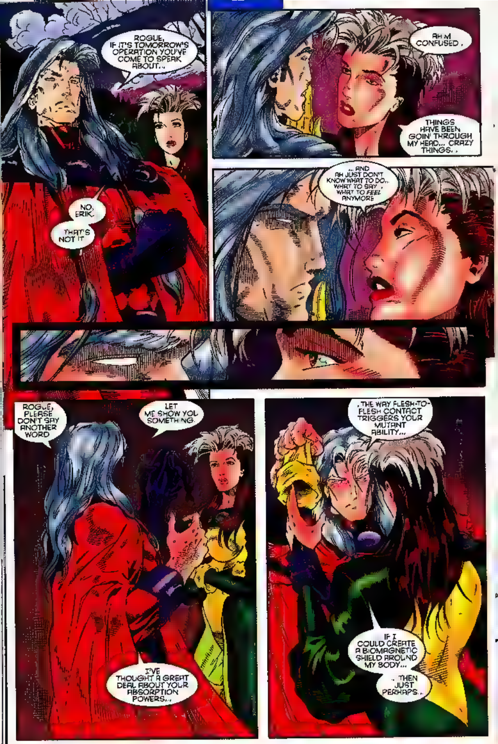


WE CAN'T ALLOW OURSELVES EVEN A *MOMENT* OF *WEAKNESS.*
WELL LOOKEE HERE!
JUST THE MAN I BEEN LOOKING FOR
MAGNETO, IF YOU GOT A MOMENT... I NEED TO TALK ABOUT ROGUE.
SHE'S ACTIN' AWFUL *PECULIAR* AND I WAS WONDERIN' --
GAMBIT!
WE ARE *TRAINING!*
EITHER BE SILENT AND *WATCH*, OR...
... JOIN IN... AND BE SILENT *ANYWAY!*


Directly outside the X-Men compound.
THIS IS THE PLACE.
THE REBEL STENCH SICKENS MY STOMACH.
IT IS TIME TO TAKE THE FIGHT DIRECTLY TO THEM.
YEAH!
FOR
SRAK
OVER-ZEALOUS FOOL.
NOW THE REST OF YOU WILL LISTEN TO MY PLAN.


WORK-OUT OVER SO SOON, BOSS?
I WAS JUS' STARTIN TO WORK UP A SWEAT
IT WILL HAVE TO DO FOR NOW, CREED, BUT
TOMORROW WE LEAVE AT DAWN.
SOMETHIN' GOOD?
I THINK IT WILL KEEP YOU SATISFIED.
NOW GET SOME SLEEP... ALL OF YOU.
IF YOU'VE GOT A MINUTE... I'M SORRY 'BOUT BUSTING IN THE PRACTICE AND MOUTHIN' OFF AND ALL.
IT'S JUST... IT'S ROGUE.
I HAVE THESE FEELINGS FOR HER... AND I'VE BEEN TRYIN' TO LET HER KNOW, BUT SHE WON'T GIVE ME A CHANCE.
WAY I FIGURE IT'S THAT SHE'S CONCERNED 'BOUT HER POWERS.
NOW YOU AN' ME'VE TALKED 'BOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTIN' 'ROUND THEM AND I WAS WONDERING IF MAYBE YOU COULD TALK TO HER FOR ME?
SHE'S GOT ME ALL TWISTED 'ROUND INSIDE. Y'MIND IF I BEND YOUR EAR 'BOUT HER LITTLE BIT?
COULD IT WAIT, REMY? I NEED TO --
PROMISE TO KEEP IT SHORT
REMY... I DON'T KNOW IF THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME FOR ME
I


-Ahem!-
EXCUSE ME, GAMBIT.
AH'VE GOT TO TALK MAGNETO. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT
I T'INK THAT'D WORK OUT JUS' FINE
BUT YOU GOT TO PROMISE ME YOU AND ME CAN TALK WHEN YOU'RE DONE
T'S A PROMISE
UNTIL THEN, P'TITE.
YOU TAKE CARE OF HER, ERIK.
I. PROMISE


ROGUE, IF IT'S TOMORROW'S OPERATION YOU'VE COME TO SPEAK ABOUT...
NO, ERIK.
THAT'S NOT IT.
AH M CONFUSED.
THINGS HAVE BEEN GOIN' THROUGH MY HEAD... CRAZY THINGS...
...AND AH JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO... WHAT TO SAY, WHAT TO FEEL ANYMORE.
ROGUE, PLEASE DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD.
LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
I'VE THOUGHT A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOUR ABSORPTION POWERS...
...THE WAY FLESH-TO-FLESH CONTACT TRIGGERS YOUR MUTANT ABILITY...
IF I COULD CREATE A BIOMAGNETIC SHIELD AROUND MY BODY...
...THEN JUST PERHAPS...



TAKE MY HAND
TRUST ME
I DO
WITH ALL MY HEART I BELIEVE ME DO
OH, ERIK.. THANK YOU.. THANK YOU SO ~


CHIEN!
TRAITOROUS DOG!
I'LL KILL YOU!
REMY?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ME? WHAT AM I DOIN'?
YOU'RE THE ONE STANDIN' HERE.. TOUCH N' HER... LOOK N' AT HER LIKE... LIKE.
WHY, ERIK? WHY?! YOU WERE MY FRIEND... MY FRIEND?!
AND YOU!
I SAW THE LOOK IN YOUR EYES WHEN HE TOUCHED YOU. DID IT FEEL GOOD?
REMY, PLEASE DON'T —
JUS' 'CAUSE YOU GAVE WANDA YOUR VOW TO LOOK AFTER THE OLD MAN DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO —
HOW DARE YOU?!
MAYBE I DESERVED THAT, BUT WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT, CHERE...
...YOU GOIN' TO HAVE TO CHOOSE REAL SOON
EITHER HIM OR ME.


REMY.
AH DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK HAPPENED HERE, BUT,
THE ALARM!
WEEEEEEOOOOO
"MAGNETO, WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK UP THERE... THE REST OF THE TEAM'LL NEED US!"
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CHOOSE, ROGUE!
REAL SOON.



AINT THIS SWEET!
THESE DOPES SHOW UP ON OUR DOOR-STEP AND SAVE US THE TIME OF HAVIN' TO HUNT THEM DOWN.
REMINDS ME OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS...
...WHEN YOU COULD STILL GET DECENT CHINESE FOOD DELIVERED.
THANK YOU FOR JOINING US, MAGNETO, BUT IT IS NOT NECESSARY.
THESE GUYS HAVE MORE GUTS THAN BRAINS SHOWING UP AT THE FRONT GATE LIKE THIS.
I MEAN, THEY SEEM A LITTLE STRONGER... BUT REALLY AGAINST US?
JUST SETTLE BACK AND WATCH US DO WHAT YOU TAUGHT US TO DO.
WE'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL... TAKE IT EASY WHILE WE DRIVE THEM BACK DOWN THE MOUNTAIN.
ROGUE, ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE...
...I THINK WE SHOULD TALK.


SORRY, MAGNETO!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO TOO MUCH MORE TALKING TO THE PRETTY LADY!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT IF YOU KILLED HIM, I SWEAR I'LL —
HE WON'T DIE.
I NEED HIM TO LIVE.
LIVE TO SEE YOU DIE!
GOOD-BYE
Z-Z-ZRRAAK
'T'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN, MON AMI
...I STILL GOT SOME FEELIN'S LEFT FOR THE LADY!


KRAK
THAT'S NICE, CAJUN, BUT FROM WHAT I SAW...
...SHE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH FOR YOU!
WHAT'S THIS?
THE LITTLE LADY WANTS TO GO DOWN FIGHTING?
HOWEVER YOU WANT IT!
ROGUE...
GET... AWAY FROM... HER
STILL GOT ENOUGH LEFT IN YOU TO THROW UP A MAGNETIC FIELD, TRAITOR?
GUESS YOU AND YOUR CAJUN FRIEND AREN'T LEAVIN' ME MUCH CHOICE...



...I'M GOING TO RISK HOLOCAUST'S ANGER AND *KILL* YOU BOTH!
MOVE T, ERIK. WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
I WANT YOU ALIVE SO I CAN KICK YOUR BUTT LATER!
BACKED YOURSELVES NTO A CORNER, REBELS
REMY ? *ERIK!*
HE'S HURT I CAN'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO HIM
She didn't even have time to think -- only to act on bare instinct.
And in that desperate split second, Remy LeBeau's hopes and dreams wither and die.
SWOOSH
ROGUE..?
It is a loss that does not go unnoticed.
LOOKS L KE THE LADY HAS MADE HER FINAL DECISION, LOVER BOY!
AND GUESS WHAT?
YOU LOSE!



NO, UGLY, FROM WHERE I'M STANDING ... LIKE THE LOSER!
LET'S DO IT
The battle is the stuff of legends.
The X-MEN utilize every skill...
...every strategy they have learned as a team.
Every ounce of their mutant strength is released...
...in an attempt to stop a foe who is...
...UNSTOPPABLE.
THAT WAS FUN, MAGNETO. YOUR KIDS ARE GOOD...
...JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
OKAY, LADY, HERE'S THE DEAL...
...YOU LET ME KILL YOU WHILE HE WATCHES...
...AND I'LL LET HIM LIVE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HERE'S MY DEAL, SUGAH!
FIRST AH BASH YOUR BRAINS IN --
-- THEN AH'M GOIN' BACK T' HELP GAMBIT!



SUCH BRAVERY
BUT YOU'RE STILL GOING TO DIE!
IT'S NOT GOIN' TO HAPPEN!
YOU?! DON'T YOU HAVE THE SENSE TO STAY DOWN? WHY KILL YOURSELF FOR A WOMAN WHO WOULDN'T DO THE SAME FOR YOU?
WHAT CAN I SAY?
NEVER BEEN ACCUSED OF BEIN' TOO SMART WHEN A LADY'S INVOLVED.
THAT'S IT?!
A PUNCH IN THE GUT AND YOU EXPECT ME TO CRUMBLE?
I'VE BEEN SLAPPED HARDER BY LITTLE GIRLS!
WELL... ACTUALLY...
...I NEVER CONSIDERED TAKIN' YOU OUT WITH THE PUNCH.
YOU SEE THAT THERE ROCK BEHIND YOUR BELT? THAT'S RIGHT, THE ONE THAT'S GLOWIN'.
WELL, IT'S ALL PART OF MY POWERS TO TURN POTENTIAL ENERGY INTO KINETIC ENERGY.
WHAT THE --?!
AND SINCE IT'S BIGGER THAN WHAT I'M USED TO CHARGIN' UP, IT MEANS IT'S GOING TO EXPLODE... BIG TIME...

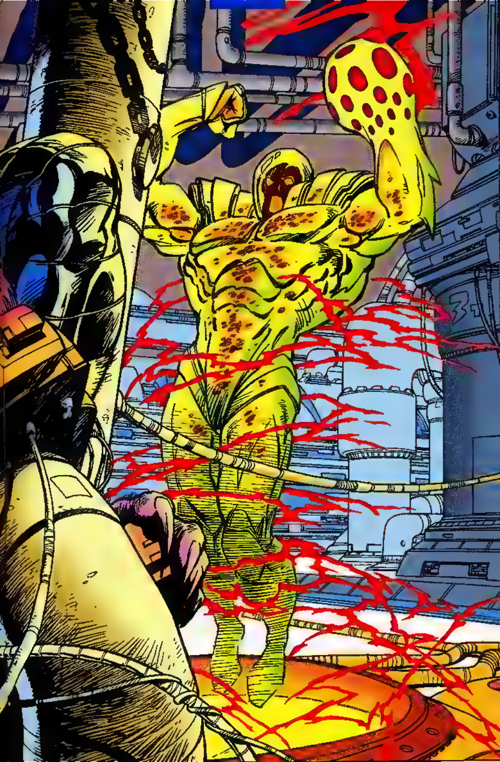

...RIGHT...
...ABOUT...
NOW!
BRAKOOM
REMY, I...
...DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
DON', CHERE.
DON' SAY A WORD, OKAY?
Y'KNOW, ALL MY LIFE I BEEN ALONE, I PRETENDED I LIKED IT DAT WAY --
-- BUT THERE'S NO HIDIN' BEHIND A LIE... I WAS LOOKIN' FOR SOMEONE TO LOVE.
JUST MY LUCK I FOUND HER -- AND SHE LOVES SOMEBODY ELSE.
CAN'T BE HELPED. YOU DON'T CHOOSE WHO YOU LOVE.
BUT NO DENYIN' IT HURTS.
MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR GAMBIT TO BE ALONE AGAIN.
She almost calls out to him to beg him to come back.
But she knows he is right -- love can't be denied.
And it breaks her heart.
END


THE AGE OF APOCALYPSE
HISTORICAL MOMENTS
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The RESCUE of CHAMBER
VAL SEMEKIS/MATT RYAN/
MARIE JAVINS
The FUNERAL of
SCARLET WITCH
PAUL SMITH/MATT WEBB
The TRANSFORMATION of
NEMESIS into HOLOCAUST
JERRY BINGHAM/MARIE JAVINS
The SALVATION
of EXODUS
MICHAEL GOLDEN





THE AGE OF APOCALYPSE
ISTORICAL MOMENT:
The TRANSFORMATION of NEMESIS to HOLOCAUST




THE AGE OF APOCALYPSE HISTORICAL MOMENT:
The FUNERAL of SCARLET WITCH






THE AGE OF APOCALYPSE HISTORICAL MOMENT:
The SALVATION of EXODUS


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